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APR 13 2004

Marine Safety Information Bulletin LC01-2004

This bulletin is for informational purposes only.

In recent months, Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles has responded to and investigated several pollution incidents in the Lake Charles and Cameron area that occurred during fueling operations of offshore supply vessels and crew boats. In the interest of preventing future oil spills, I am sharing some of the common discrepancies that were discovered during the investigations, in hopes that you will take appropriate action:

- The individual designated as the person-in-charge was not actually overseeing the transfer operation and in some cases unqualified persons were supervising the transfer.
- The transfer procedures were not readily available during transfer operations.
- The transfer procedures were not being followed.
- The transfer procedures did not contain the information required by law. For example: procedures for topping off tanks, identifying person in charge of transfer, procedures for operating emergency shutdown, number of persons required to be on duty during transfer, and a line diagram of the vessel's piping system.

Please examine your transfer procedures and ensure they comply with the requirements outlined in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 155.750. In addition, ensure the transfer procedures are immediately available and that all crewmembers involved in fuel transfers are properly trained in accordance with Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 156.160.

Thank you for partnering with the Coast Guard to protect our marine environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. McCadden".

M. J. McCADDEN
Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer